



September 2003

Proposed Rule Revision

Arsenic Rule

Chapter 246-291 WAC Group B

Systems affected

The State Board of Health (SBOH) and the Office of Drinking Water are collecting information with regard to revising the standard to reduce the amount of arsenic allowed in Group B public water systems. The rule revision process, if undertaken, will include an analysis of the economic impacts. Consideration on revising the arsenic standard in the State Board of Health rules for Group B Public Water Systems, 246-291 WAC, is being delayed at this time.

Timelines and requirements

Water System Timelines and Requirements:

Water systems would be subject to the revised WAC after it becomes effective if the rule change takes place.

Purpose of rule change

Reduce the amount of arsenic allowed in drinking water by lowering the existing arsenic standard from 50 ppb to 10 ppb.

Public health benefit

Arsenic has been reported to cause more than 30 different adverse health effects including cardiovascular disease, diabetes mellitus, skin changes, nervous system damage, and various forms of cancer.

Revising the standard to reduce the amount of arsenic allowed in drinking water will lessen people's long-term exposure to arsenic and reduce the risk of adverse health effects.

Key issues of public interest

The SBOH must decide:

- If the lower standard applies to any Group B system.
- If the lower standard applies only to new sources and new systems.
- If the lower standard applies to existing systems.
- What would be required of purveyors if their system exceeds the lower arsenic standard.
- What the economic impacts would be for these water systems.

Rule development timeline

State Timelines (subject to change)

- Develop Draft Regulations – To be determined
- Stakeholder Comment Period – To be determined
- Public Hearing – To be determined
- Rule Adoption – To be determined

A CR-101 was filed on September 12, 2002 as WSR#02-19-060. You can view this document on the web at:

<http://slc.leg.wa.gov/wsr/register.htm>

How to get involved

An Open House/ Hearing will be scheduled if the rule revision is done.

Send written comments to:

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Department of Health
PO Box 47822
Olympia, WA 98504-7822

Comment online (To be determined) at:

<http://www3.doh.wa.gov/policyreview/>

Send email comments to:

<mailto:theresa.phillips@doh.wa.gov>

Fax comments to:

Attn: Theresa Phillips
360-236-2253

For more information

Theresa Phillips, Rules Coordinator, 360-236-3147

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You can also visit our website at:

[http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/Our Main Pages/regula.htm](http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/Our_Main_Pages/regula.htm)